

## **Assembly Bill No. 2352**

### **CHAPTER 700**

An act to amend Section 56.103 of the Civil Code, and to add Section 5328.04 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to confidential information.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2008. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 30, 2008.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 2352, Fuentes. Health services: confidential information.

Existing law prohibits a provider of health care, a health care service plan, contractor, or corporation and its subsidiaries and affiliates from intentionally sharing, selling, or otherwise using any medical information, as defined, for any purpose not necessary to provide health care services to a patient, except as expressly authorized by the patient, enrollee, or subscriber, as specified, or as otherwise required or authorized by law. Existing law permits disclosure of medical information to a county social worker, a probation officer, or any other person who is legally authorized to have custody or care of a minor, as defined, for the purpose of coordinating health care services and medical treatment provided to the minor.

This bill would make a technical change to this provision.

Under existing law, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, information and records obtained in the course of providing certain services is confidential and may only be released in specific circumstances. The act's confidentiality provisions pertain to persons who are receiving or have received mental health care services or services for persons with developmental disabilities.

This bill would permit release of that information, not including psychotherapy notes, as defined, to a county social worker, probation officer, or any other person who is legally authorized to have custody or care of a minor who is taken into temporary custody or for whom a petition has been filed with the court, or who has been adjudged a dependent child or ward of juvenile court, but only for the purpose of coordinating health care services and medical treatment, as defined, or mental health or developmental services for the minor.

This bill would further permit an individual to whom information was disclosed to further disclose that information to a person who would otherwise be able to obtain that information under the bill or another provision of law.

The bill would further provide that information disclosed pursuant to these provisions may not be admitted into evidence in any criminal or delinquency proceeding against the minor thereby requiring a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote for enactment pursuant to the Victims' Bill of Rights.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 56.103 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

56.103. (a) A provider of health care may disclose medical information to a county social worker, a probation officer, or any other person who is legally authorized to have custody or care of a minor for the purpose of coordinating health care services and medical treatment provided to the minor.

(b) For purposes of this section, health care services and medical treatment includes one or more providers of health care providing, coordinating, or managing health care and related services, including, but not limited to, a provider of health care coordinating health care with a third party, consultation between providers of health care and medical treatment relating to a minor, or a provider of health care referring a minor for health care services to another provider of health care.

(c) For purposes of this section, a county social worker, a probation officer, or any other person who is legally authorized to have custody or care of a minor shall be considered a third party who may receive any of the following:

(1) Medical information described in Sections 56.05 and 56.10.

(2) Protected health information described in Section 160.103 of Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(d) Medical information disclosed to a county social worker, probation officer, or any other person who is legally authorized to have custody or care of a minor shall not be further disclosed by the recipient unless the disclosure is for the purpose of coordinating health care services and medical treatment of the minor and the disclosure is authorized by law. Medical information disclosed pursuant to this section may not be admitted into evidence in any criminal or delinquency proceeding against the minor. Nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit identical evidence from being admissible in a criminal proceeding if that evidence is derived solely from lawful means other than this section and is permitted by law.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding Section 56.104, if a provider of health care determines that the disclosure of medical information concerning the diagnosis and treatment of a mental health condition of a minor is reasonably necessary for the purpose of assisting in coordinating the treatment and care of the minor, that information may be disclosed to a county social worker, probation officer, or any other person who is legally authorized to have custody or care of the minor. The information shall not be further disclosed by the recipient unless the disclosure is for the purpose of coordinating mental health services and treatment of the minor and the disclosure is authorized by law.

(2) As used in this subdivision, “medical information” does not include psychotherapy notes as defined in Section 164.501 of Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(f) The disclosure of information pursuant to this section is not intended to limit the disclosure of information when that disclosure is otherwise required by law.

(g) For purposes of this section, “minor” means a minor taken into temporary custody or as to who a petition has been filed with the court, or who has been adjudged to be a dependent child or ward of the juvenile court pursuant to Section 300 or 601 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(h) (1) Except as described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or otherwise affect existing privacy protections provided for in state or federal law.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to expand the authority of a social worker, probation officer, or custodial caregiver beyond the authority provided under existing law to a parent or a patient representative regarding access to medical information.

SEC. 2 Section 5328.04 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5328.04. (a) Notwithstanding Section 5328, information and records made confidential under that section may be disclosed to a county social worker, a probation officer, or any other person who is legally authorized to have custody or care of a minor, for the purpose of coordinating health care services and medical treatment, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 56.103 of the Civil Code, mental health services, or services for developmental disabilities, for the minor.

(b) Information disclosed under subdivision (a) shall not be further disclosed by the recipient unless the disclosure is for the purpose of coordinating health care services and medical treatment, or mental health or developmental disability services, for the minor and only to a person who would otherwise be able to obtain the information under subdivision (a) or any other provision of law.

(c) Information disclosed pursuant to this section shall not be admitted into evidence in any criminal or delinquency proceeding against the minor. Nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit identical evidence from being admissible in a criminal proceeding if that evidence is derived solely from lawful means other than this section and is permitted by law.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to compel a physician, licensed psychologist, social worker with a master’s degree in social work, licensed marriage and family therapist, nurse, attorney, or other professional person to reveal information, including notes, that has been given to him or her in confidence by the minor or members of the minor’s family.

(e) The disclosure of information pursuant to this section is not intended to limit disclosure of information when that disclosure is otherwise required by law.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to expand the authority of a social worker, probation officer, or custodial caregiver beyond the authority provided under existing law to a parent or a patient representative regarding access to confidential information.

(g) As used in this section, “minor” means a minor taken into temporary custody or for whom a petition has been filed with the court, or who has been adjudged a dependent child or ward of juvenile court pursuant to Section 300 or 601.

(h) Information and records that may be disclosed pursuant to this section do not include psychotherapy notes, as defined in Section 164.501 of Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

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